

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS ISTANBUL 1591

3. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BENC, TU

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT EARLY WARNING: SECOND BOSPHORUS BRIDGE

1. A JOINT STUDY GROUP COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING MINISTRIES, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, AND ISTANBUL PLANNING BUREAU HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE PRESENT BOSPHORUS BRIDGE WILL BE UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE PROJECTED 1981 HIGHWAY TRAFFIC. THE STUDY GROUP

IS PREPARING PLANS FOR A SECOND BRIDGE, INCLUDING A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A COMBINED RAIL/HIGHWAY LINK.

2. THE FINANCIAL SUCCESS OF THE FIRST BRIDGE, COMPLETED IN 1973 BY AN ANGLO/GERMAN CONSORTIUM AND REPORTEDLY COMPLETELY AMORTIZED IN LATE 1975, AND RAPID GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF INTERNATIONAL TIR TRUCK TRAFFIC THROUGH TURKEY LEND SUPPORT TO PROPONENTS OF A SECOND EUROPE-ASIA LINK ACROSS THE BOSHPORUS STRAITS. THE PROJECT, WITH A TOTAL COST EEXCEEDING ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS, WOULD PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SALE OF ENGINEERING AND GENERAL CONTRACTING SERVICES BY U. S. FIRMS. WE WILL REPORT DETAILS AS THEY DEVELOP.
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